



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
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DOES YOUR COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NEED ASSISTANCE?
--Housing, Utility Upgrades, Day Care & Community Centers, Start-Up Businesses, Broadband--
--Join us at the upcoming USDA Rural Development meeting. We may be able to assist!--

Broken Bow, Neb., Nov. 8, 2004—USDA Rural Development will host two program outreach meetings open to the public on Thursday, November 18, 2004 at the Paddock Building on the Custer County Fairgrounds, east side of Broken Bow, Neb. from 3:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. CST and 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. CST. USDA Rural Development's housing, community facilities, utilities, and business programs that brought nearly \$125 million into rural Nebraska last fiscal year will be featured in preparation for Fiscal Year 2005 funding.

USDA Rural Development will hold discussion on the importance of the \$1.3 billion in funding available nationwide for the broadband program and its potential impact on rural Nebraska. There are approximately 130 rural Nebraska communities totaling over 54,000 rural residents that do not have broadband services available to them. Learn: **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? WHAT CAN BROADBAND FUNDS BE USED FOR? WHAT TYPES OF BROADBAND LOANS ARE AVAILABLE? WHAT COULD BROADBAND FUNDS ACHIEVE?**

In addition to monies for broadband, USDA Rural Development has funding available for housing, community facilities, utilities and business. If you answer yes to any of the following questions, USDA may have a program that can assist you. Attend the meeting to find out more details.

- **Are you looking to buy a home? Or repair your existing home?**
Does your community need apartment housing?
- **Looking to build/improve a library, day care center, fire & rescue building, senior citizen center, community center, streets?**
- **Need a new sewer or water system or improvements to your existing systems?**
- **Wanting to start a business or expand a present venture?**
- **Looking to increase value to your ag products and enter new markets?**
- **Need help with wind, solar, biomass, biogas, and geothermal projects? Looking into energy efficiency improvement projects to HVAC systems, insulation, refrigeration, lighting, pumping systems, air systems, motor systems, and irrigation?**

Presentations will be given on each program area with breakout sessions following. The opportunity to visit one on one with the Program Specialists will follow the breakout sessions.

Contact Lennis Hodgson, (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TDY), 4009 North 6th Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848; or Andre Boening, (402) 543-2129. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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